

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SAM-01

DRC-01 IO-14 /106 W

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R 111527Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5384

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 183

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EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EI

SUBJECT: NEW IRISH AMBASSADORS FOR PARIS AND UN

1. FONOFF HAS ANNOUNCED DESIGNATION OF HUGH MCCANN AS NEXT AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. HE HAS BEEN PERMANENT SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR 11 YEARS AND IS IRELAND'S LEADING CAREER DIPLOMAT. AS JUNIOR OFFICER, MCCANN SERVED IN WASHINGTON AND MARRIED ATTRACTIVE AMERICAN WIFE, VIRGINIA, DAUGHTER OF LATE GENERAL THOMAS LARKIN, USA. BOTH ARE FRIENDLY AND ACCESSIBLE TO AMERICANS. IT WAS MCCANN WE PRINCIPALLY DEALT WITH IN AIRLINE LANDING-RIGHTS DISCUSSIONS, AND WHILE HE DEFENDED IRISH INTERESTS VIGOROUSLY AND WITH SKILLFUL PROFESSIONALISM, HE WAS AT ALL TIMES HONEST AND OBJECTIVE.

2. MORE RECENTLY, MCCANN HAS BEEN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF IRELAND'S PRO-FRENCH POLICIES IN EC. WE HAVE HAD MANY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM ON US/EC RELATIONS, AND HE HAS SEEMED PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO LINE THAT COULD NOT BE DISTINGUISHED FROM FRENCH POSITION. AFTER HE DEFENDS FRANCOPHILE POLICY WITH OBVIOUS ENTHUSIASM, HE CUSTOMARILY ASSURES US THAT IRELAND ALSO APPRECIATES AMERICAN VIEW-

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POINTS. WHEN HE MAKES THIS COUNTERBALANCING ASSURANCE,

HOWEVER, HE SWITCHES FROM FERVENT BELIEVER TO CAUTIOUS DIPLOMAT. MCCANN'S ATTITUDE IS SHARED ELSEWHERE IN FOREIGN OFFICE AND GOVERNMENT, AS WITNESSED BY FACT THAT FRANCE RATHER THAN U.S. OR U.K. IS GETTING IRELAND'S TOP DIPLOMAT. WE ARE NOT SURE, OF COURSE, HOW MCCANN WILL REACT IN PARIS ENVIRONMENT. WE BELIEVE EMBASSY/PARIS OFFICERS WILL FIND HIM INTELLIGENT, CONGENIAL, AND WELL WORTH TALKING TO ABOUT FRENCH POLITICS AND EC PROBLEMS.

3. CURRENT IRISH AMBASSADOR TO PARIS, EAMONN KENNEDY, IS MOVING TO NEW YORK AS IRISH PERMREPT TO UN. CREMIN IS RETIRING BUT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON PART-TIME BASIS IN ORDER TO REPRESENT IRELAND AT LOS CONFERENCE. WE HAVE HAD MINIMUM CONTACT WITH EAMONN KENNEDY, WHO IS SENIOUR IRISH CAREER OFFICER, WITH PREVIOUS POSTS AT UN, NIGERIA, AND AS AMBASSADOR TO FRG. HIS WIFE IS DAUGHTER OF PROMINENT AMERICAN PHILANTHROPIST, WILLIAM BLACK, OF NEW YORK.

4. MCCANN'S SUCCESSOR IN TOP FONOFF JOB HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT HIS CURRENT DEPUTY, PAUL KEATING, FORMER CONGEN NEW YORK, AND DONAL O'SULLIVAN, PRESENTLY AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, ARE AT HEAD OF LINE.

5. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, FONMIN FITZGERALD TOLD AMBASSADOR FOREGOING CHANGES ARE FIRST OF SERVERAL TO BE MADE IN NEXT FEW MONTHS.  
MOORE

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